

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SCA-01 VO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00
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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:KNBROWN/LVA
APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE
-----272225Z 096074 /66
O 272203Z MAY 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123571

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, BU

SUBJECT: MAREV CASE
REF: SOFIA 1096

1. ARMITAGE (EUR) AND BROWN (EUR/EE) MET WITH MAREVS ON MAY 25 AND 27 TO INFORM THEM THAT CASE CLOSE TO RESOLUTION AND TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS. DESPITE OUR STRONG AND REPEATED URGINGS, MRS. MAREV WOULD NOT RPT NOT AGREE TO TRAVEL TO BULGARIA TO MEET WITH GIRLS, PERSUADE THEM IF NECESSARY, AND ACCOMPANY THEM BACK. THEY HAVE STOPPED VIGIL OUTSIDE (SINCE AFTERNOON OF MAY 25), BUT STATE THEY WILL REINSTITUTE IT IF PROGRESS IS NOT RAPID ONCE SCHOOL IS OUT. THEY HAVE AGREED NOT TO INFORM PRESS OR CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES, AND, IF ASKED WHY VIGIL STOPPED, WILL SAY ONLY "WE ARE HOPEFUL FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE CASE."

2. AFTER CONSIDERABLE BACK AND FORTH RE WHETHER GIRLS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED AND BY WHOM, MAREVS FINALLY AGREED THAT THEIR FIRST CHOICE WOULD BE MRS. MAREV'S MOTHER.

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THEY NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT MOTHER IS ELDERLY AND IN BAD HEALTH AND MAY BE AFRAID TO TRAVEL BY PLANE. IF MOTHER CANNOT OR WILL NOT ACCOMPANY, SECOND CHOICE IS MRS. MAREV'S SISTER, RADKA, LIVING WITH MOTHER. IF SHE WILL NOT TRAVEL, THIRD CHOICE WOULD BE MRS. MAREV'S SECOND SISTER, ATANASKA.

3. MAREVS EXPRESSED FEAR THAT RELATIVES MIGHT BE AFRAID

TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO ACCOMPANY GIRLS UNLESS THEY HAVE CLEAR SIGNAL FROM AUTHORITIES THAT GIRLS CAN TRAVEL AND CAN BE ACCOMPANIED. THEY ALSO WERE CONCERNED THAT PROCESSING OF PASSPORT FOR ACCOMPANYING RELATIVE COULD TAKE MONTHS, THEREBY DELAYING GIRLS' DEPARTURE. RE QUESTION OF GIRLS' VOLUNTARILY AGREEING TO TRAVEL TO US TO VISIT PARENTS, MRS. MAREV ADMITTED THAT SHE FEARED THAT AFTER "PROGRAMMING" OF CHILDREN THEY WILL BE AFRAID TO ADMIT THAT THEY WANT TO GO TO MOTHER. ARMITAGE POINTED OUT THAT THAT WAS AN EXCELLENT REASON FOR MRS. MAREV TO GO TO BULGARIA, BUT SHE STEADFASTLY REFUSED THAT OPTION.

4. MAREVS PLAN TO ARRANGE MAY 27 THROUGH PAA IN WASHINGTON FOR PREPAYMENT OF ONE-WAY TICKETS FOR DAUGHTERS AND ONE ROUND-TRIP TICKET, WITH NAME OPEN. PAA WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO AUTHORIZE DELIVERY OF TICKETS TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA. THE MAREVS WILL MAKE NO EFFORT TO CONTACT THE GIRLS OR THEIR RELATIVES UNTIL SCHOOL TERM IS OVER.

5. ACTIONS REQUESTED: WE VOLUNTEERED EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE TO FIND OUT WHETHER GRANDMOTHER IS ABLE AND WISHES TO ACCOMPANY CHILDREN, OR, IF SHE DECLINES, WHETHER SISTERS RADKA OR ATANASKA WILL ACCOMPANY. IF FOR SOME REASON NONE OF THEM IS WILLING, WE TOLD MAREVS THAT WE WOULD EXAMINE POSSIBILITY OF EMBASSY OFFICER ACCOMPANYING GIRLS TO VIENNA, WHERE MAREVS WOULD HAVE TO MEET THEM. THUS, EMBASSY SHOULD: A) CONTACT MOTHER, PETRA ATANASOVA ZHELEZOVA, TSELO BORYANA, OKRUG VARNA (CAN BE REACHED BY PHONE IN POST OFFICE) RE ACCOMPANYING CHILDREN; IF SHE IS CONFIDENTIAL

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UNWILLING, SPEAK TO SISTER, RADKA VLCHEVA DIMITROVA, WITH WHOM MOTHER IS LIVING, TO ASK HER. FINALLY, IF RADKA IS UNABLE, CONTACT SISTER ATANASKA RAIKOVA FILEVA, TSELO JEZEROVO, OKRUG VARNA (CAN BE REACHED BY PHONE VIA POST OFFICE). IF NECESSARY, WE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO RECOMMEND THAT EMBOFF TRAVEL TO VARNA DISTRICT TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH RELATIVES. WE LEAVE IT TO YOUR DISCRETION AS TO WHETHER YOU ENLIST THE HELP OF THE MFA IN PRESENTING SITUATION TO RELATIVES. JUDGING FROM MAREVS ATTITUDE, WE WONDER WHETHER DIRECT APPROACH TO RELATIVES BY BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES WITHOUT EMBASSY PRESENCE OR PRIOR CONTACT MIGHT FRIGHTEN RELATIVES AND CAUSE THEM TO REFUSE TO TRAVEL.

B) WHEN YOU INFORM MFA OF MAREVS' DECISION, INQUIRE AS TO HOW RAPIDLY TOURIST PASSPORT CAN BE ISSUED FOR ACCOMPANYING RELATIVE.

C) WE ASSUME YOU WILL NOT REQUIRE ANY NEW AFFIDAVITS FROM

MAREVS IN ORDER TO ISSUE TOURIST VISA TO ACCOMPANYING RELATIVE (YOU HAVE OR SHORTLY WILL RECEIVE CONFIRMATION THAT YOU CAN ISSUE MAREV GIRLS B-2 VISAS). IF OUR ASSUMPTION WRONG, INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.

D) IF THE MOTHER OR SISTERS CANNOT ACCOMPANY, WOULD TRAVEL TO VIENNA OF EMBASSY OFFICER WITH GIRLS SATISFY MFA'S CONCERNS OVER THEIR TRAVEL?

E) PRESUME YOU WILL COORDINATE WITH MFA RE GETTING GIRLS' AND RELATIVE'S PASSPORTS TO EMBASSY FOR VISAS. MAREVS INDICATED THAT HER BROTHER, JELES ATANASOV JELEZOV (ADDRESS: KOMPLEX POBEDA, BLOK 1, VHOD A, APT. 1, VARNA; PHONE CONTACT THROUGH POST OFFICE), IS PHYSICALLY CLOSEST TO GIRLS IN TERMS OF BEING ABLE TO PREPARE DOCUMENTS, APPLY FOR PASSPORTS AND DELIVER THEM TO SOFIA, IF NECESSARY.

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F) ADVISE US ASAP WHEN IS LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

6. JUST FYI, POPOV TELLS US HE IS NOT PLANNING TO SEE MAREVS UNLESS THEY NEED TO TALK WITH HIM ABOUT CASE. VANCE

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